

Existing law (R.S. 42:1169(A)) provides that any public employee shall be free from discipline or reprisal for reporting to his agency head or to the Board of Ethics information which he believes is a violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics or of orders, rules, or regulations issued pursuant to such code, any other law under jurisdiction of the Board of Ethics, or any other acts of impropriety within any governmental entity. Additionally provides that no employee with authority to hire and fire, supervisor, agency head, or elected official shall subject a public employee to reprisal because of the employee's disclosure of such act of impropriety.

Existing law (R.S. 42:1169(B)) additionally provides that any public employee in state government shall be free from discipline or reprisal for reporting to a person or entity of competent authority or jurisdiction information which he reasonably believes is a violation of law or of orders, rules, or regulations issued pursuant to law or any other alleged acts of impropriety related to the scope and/or duties of public employment or public office within any branch of state government. Additionally provides that no person with authority to hire and fire, supervisor, agency head, or elected official shall subject such employee to reprisal because of the employee's disclosure of such act of impropriety.

New law retains existing law except applies the provisions to all public employees (local and state) and provides that such public employees shall be free from discipline or reprisal for reporting to a person or entity of competent authority or jurisdiction information which he reasonably believes is a violation of law or of orders, rules, or regulations issued pursuant to law or any other alleged acts of impropriety related to the scope and/or duties of public employment or public office within any branch of state government or any political subdivision.

Existing law (R.S. 42:1169(C)) provides that in the event that any public employee is suspended, demoted, or dismissed in violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics relative to freedom from reprisal for disclosure of improper acts, the employee must report such action to the Board of Ethics.